

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-5 cancelled.

6. (new) A skin moisturizer for oral intake comprising as an active component fermented milk whey obtained by fermentation of milk with *Lactobacillus helveticus*.

7. (new) The skin moisturizer for oral intake according to claim 6, wherein said *Lactobacillus helveticus* is *Lactobacillus helveticus* CM-4 (deposited at International Patent Organism Depositary, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology under accession number FERM BP-6060).

8. (new) Functional food and beverage comprising the skin moisturizer for oral intake of claim 6, and having a moisturizing effect.

9. (new) Use of fermented milk whey obtained by fermentation of milk with *Lactobacillus helveticus* for the manufacture of a skin moisturizer for oral intake or functional food and beverage having a skin moisturizing effect.

10. (new) A method of moisturizing skin comprising orally administering fermented milk whey obtained by fermentation of milk with *Lactobacillus helveticus*, to a subject.

11. (new) The skin moisturizer for oral intake according to claim 6, having a filaggrin synthesis promoting effect.
12. (new) A filaggrin synthesis promotor comprising as an active component fermented milk whey obtained by fermentation of milk with *Lactobacillus helveticus*.
- 13, (new) An agent for remedying dry skin for oral intake comprising as an active component fermented milk whey obtained by fermentation of milk with *Lactobacillus helveticus*.
14. (new) The skin moisturizer for oral intake according to claim 7, having a filaggrin synthesis promoting effect.